

**CLAIMS AMENDMENTS**

Please amend claim 1 and cancel claim 11. All other claims remain unchanged.

1. (presently amended) An anti-splash, anti-spill fluid-holding apparatus, comprising:

an inner side surface comprising an inner mid section diameter thereof continuing inwardly to an inner upper section diameter thereof which is smaller than said inner mid section diameter, from more than side cross-sections;

an outer side surface comprising an outer mid section diameter thereof continuing to an outer lower section diameter thereof which is larger than said outer mid section diameter, from more than two side cross-sections;

said outer side surface further comprising an outer diameter thereof which, between said outer lower section diameter and an outer upper section diameter thereof, substantially never increases when moving from any lower circumference thereof to any higher circumference thereof, from more than two side cross-sections;

an open top circumscribed by said inner upper section diameter;

an inward angle comprising a less than 90 degree angle tangential to any point along said inner side surface from said inner mid section diameter to said inner upper section diameter, from more than two side cross-sections, wherein said inward angle is greater than zero degrees at said open top;

~~an open top circumscribed by said inner upper section~~

diameter, and

a base circumscribed by said outer lower section diameter;

and

said inner side surface, said outer side surface, said inward angle, said open top which is smaller than said inner mid section diameter, and said base circumscribed by said outer lower section diameter which is larger than said outer mid section diameter, all comprising a single, unitary article of fabrication.

2. (original) The apparatus of claim 1, said inward angle comprising a no more than approximately 75 degree angle tangential to any point from said inner mid section diameter to said inner upper section diameter.

3. (original) The apparatus of claim 1, said inward angle comprising a no more than approximately 60 degree angle tangential to any point from said inner mid section diameter to said inner upper section diameter.

4. (original) The apparatus of claim 1, said inward angle comprising a no more than approximately 45 degree angle tangential to any point from said inner mid section diameter to said inner upper section diameter.

5. (original) The apparatus of claim 1, said inward angle comprising a no more than approximately 30 degree angle tangential to any point from said inner mid section diameter to said inner upper section diameter.

6. (original) The apparatus of claim 1, said inward angle comprising a no more than approximately 15 degree angle

tangential to any point from said inner mid section diameter to said inner upper section diameter.

7. (original) The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising:  
omitting any anti-splash element comprising an inward angle greater than or equal to 90 degrees tangentially at any point between said inner mid section diameter and said inner upper section diameter.

8. (original) The apparatus of claim 1, said inward angle continuously increasing at all points along said inner side surface from said inner mid section diameter to said inner upper section diameter.

9. (original) The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising:  
an inner section ratio of no more than approximately 1 to .75 between said inner mid section diameter and said inner upper section diameter; and

said inner section ratio of no less than approximately 1 to .9375 between said inner mid section diameter and said inner upper section diameter.

10. (original) The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising:  
an inner section ratio of approximately 1 to .875 between said inner mid section diameter and said inner upper section diameter.

11. (canceled)

12. (original) The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising:  
a fluid-holding volume of no less than approximately 25 cubic centimeters; and  
said fluid-holding volume of no greater than approximately

5 50 cubic centimeters.

1 13. (original) The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising:  
2 a fluid-holding volume of approximately 37.5 cubic  
3 centimeters.

1 14. (original) The apparatus of claim 1, said inner side  
2 surface further comprising:  
3 an inner side surface height no greater than said inner mid  
4 section diameter.

1 15. (original) The apparatus of claim 1, said inner side  
2 surface further comprising:  
3 an inner side surface height no greater than approximately 4  
4 centimeters;  
5 said inner side surface height no less than approximately 2  
6 centimeters;  
7 said inner mid section diameter no greater than  
8 approximately 6 centimeters; and  
9 said inner mid section diameter no less than approximately 3  
10 centimeters.

1 16. (original) The apparatus of claim 1, said inner side  
2 surface further comprising:  
3 an inner side surface height of approximately 3 centimeters;  
4 and  
5 said inner mid section diameter of approximately 4  
6 centimeters.

1 17. (withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising:  
2 an outward angle comprising an approximately 90 degree angle  
3 tangential to at least one point from said outer mid section

4 diameter to said outer lower section diameter.

1 18. (withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising:  
2 an outward angle comprising an approximately 75 degree angle  
3 tangential to at least one point from said outer mid section  
4 diameter to said outer lower section diameter.

1 19. (withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising:  
2 an outward angle comprising an approximately 60 degree angle  
3 tangential to at least one point from said outer mid section  
4 diameter to said outer lower section diameter.

1 20. (withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising:  
2 an outward angle comprising an approximately 45 degree angle  
3 tangential to at least one point from said outer mid section  
4 diameter to said outer lower section diameter.

1 21. (original) The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising:  
2 an outward angle comprising an approximately 30 degree angle  
3 tangential to at least one point from said outer mid section  
4 diameter to said outer lower section diameter.

1 22. (withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising:  
2 an outward angle comprising an approximately 15 degree angle  
3 tangential to at least one point from said outer mid section  
4 diameter to said outer lower section diameter.

1 23. (original) The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising:  
2 an outer section ratio of no less than 1 to 1.5 between  
3 said outer mid section diameter and said outer lower section  
4 diameter; and  
5 said outer section ratio of no more than 1 to 1.1 between  
6 said outer mid section diameter and said outer lower section

7 diameter.

1 24. (original) The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising:

2 an outer section ratio of approximately 1 to 1.33 between  
3 said outer mid section diameter and said outer lower section  
4 diameter.

1 25. (original) The apparatus of claim 1, said apparatus further  
2 comprising:

3 a sterile state suitable for utilization in surgical  
4 procedures.

1 26. (original) The apparatus of claim 1, in combination with a  
2 surgical kit:

3 said surgical kit comprising:

4 said fluid holding apparatus; and

5 at least one item of surgical equipment other than said  
6 fluid holding apparatus.

1 27. (original) The apparatus of claim 1:

2 said inward angle comprising a no more than approximately 45  
3 degree angle tangential to any point from said inner mid section  
4 diameter to said inner upper section diameter;

5 said inner side surface, said outer side surface, said  
6 points along said inner side surface forming said inward angle,  
7 and said base comprising a single, unitary article of  
8 fabrication;

9 further comprising a fluid-holding volume of no less than  
10 approximately 25 cubic centimeters; and

11 further comprising said fluid-holding volume of no greater  
12 than approximately 50 cubic centimeters.

1 28. (original) The apparatus of claim 27, said apparatus  
2 further comprising:

3 a sterile state suitable for utilization in surgical  
4 procedures.

1 29. (original) The apparatus of claim 28, in combination with a  
2 surgical kit:

3 said surgical kit comprising:

4 said fluid holding apparatus; and

5 at least one item of surgical equipment other than said  
6 fluid holding apparatus.

1 30. (withdrawn) A method for preventing spilling and splashing  
2 of an antiseptic solution during a surgical procedure, comprising  
3 the steps of:

4 setting a fluid-holding apparatus upon a surgical support  
5 surface;

6 substantially filling said fluid-holding apparatus with said  
7 antiseptic solution;

8 preventing said splashing of said antiseptic solution using  
9 a inner side surface of said fluid-holding apparatus comprising  
10 an inner mid section diameter thereof and continuing inwardly to  
11 an inner upper section diameter thereof which is smaller than  
12 said inner mid section diameter;

13 preventing said spilling of said antiseptic solution using  
14 an outer side surface of said fluid-holding apparatus comprising  
15 an outer mid section diameter thereof and continuing outwardly to  
16 an outer lower section diameter thereof which is larger than said  
17 outer mid section diameter and using a base circumscribed by said

outer lower section diameter;

introducing a fluid-absorbing surgical equipment item into said antiseptic solution through an open top of said fluid-holding apparatus circumscribed by said inner upper section diameter, to absorb some of said antiseptic solution, such that a patent wound or surgical site may be cleaned by applying said fluid-absorbing surgical equipment with said antiseptic solution absorbed therein proximate said patent wound or surgical site.

31. (withdrawn) The method of claim 30, further comprising the step of:

cleaning an item of surgical equipment by introducing a soiled region of said surgical equipment into said antiseptic solution in said fluid-holding apparatus through said open top.

32. (withdrawn) The method of claim 30, further comprising the step of:

setting at least one item of surgical equipment upon said surgical support surface.

33. (withdrawn) The method of claim 30, said step of preventing said splashing further comprising the step of:

continuing said inner side surface inwardly from said inner mid section diameter to said inner upper section diameter using an inward angle comprising a less than 90 degree angle tangential to any point along said inner side surface from said inner mid section diameter to said inner upper section diameter.

34. (withdrawn) The method of claim 33, said step of preventing said splashing further comprising the step of:

continuing said inner side surface inwardly with said inward



4 angle comprising a no more than approximately 75 degree angle  
5 tangential to any point from said inner mid section diameter to  
6 said inner upper section diameter.

1 35. (withdrawn) The method of claim 33, said step of preventing  
2 said splashing further comprising the step of:

3 continuing said inner side surface inwardly with said inward  
4 angle comprising a no more than approximately 60 degree angle  
5 tangential to any point from said inner mid section diameter to  
6 said inner upper section diameter.

1 36. (withdrawn) The method of claim 33, said step of preventing  
2 said splashing further comprising the step of:

3 continuing said inner side surface inwardly with said inward  
4 angle comprising a no more than approximately 45 degree angle  
5 tangential to any point from said inner mid section diameter to  
6 said inner upper section diameter.

1 37. (withdrawn) The method of claim 33, said step of preventing  
2 said splashing further comprising the step of:

3 continuing said inner side surface inwardly with said inward  
4 angle comprising a no more than approximately 30 degree angle  
5 tangential to any point from said inner mid section diameter to  
6 said inner upper section diameter.

1 38. (withdrawn) The method of claim 33, said step of preventing  
2 said splashing further comprising the step of:

3 continuing said inner side surface inwardly with said inward  
4 angle comprising a no more than approximately 15 degree angle  
5 tangential to any point from said inner mid section diameter to  
6 said inner upper section diameter.

1 39. (withdrawn) The method of claim 30, further comprising the  
2 step of:

3 omitting any anti-splash element of said fluid-holding  
4 apparatus comprising an inward angle greater than or equal to 90  
5 degrees tangentially at any point between said inner mid section  
6 diameter and said inner upper section diameter.

1 40. (withdrawn) The method of claim 33, said step of preventing  
2 said splashing further comprising the step of:

3 continuously increasing said inward angle at all points  
4 along said inner side surface from said inner mid section  
5 diameter to said inner upper section diameter.

1 41. (withdrawn) The method of claim 30, said step of preventing  
2 said splashing further comprising the steps of:

3 providing an inner section ratio of no more than  
4 approximately 1 to .75 between said inner mid section diameter  
5 and said inner upper section diameter; and

6 providing said inner section ratio of no less than  
7 approximately 1 to .9375 between said inner mid section diameter  
8 and said inner upper section diameter.

1 42. (withdrawn) The method of claim 30, said step of preventing  
2 said splashing further comprising the step of:

3 providing an inner section ratio of approximately 1 to .875  
4 between said inner mid section diameter and said inner upper  
5 section diameter.

1 43. (withdrawn) The method of claim 30, further comprising the  
2 step of:

3 fabricating said inner side surface, said outer side

surface, said points along said inner side surface forming said inward angle, and said base comprising a single, unitary article.

44. (withdrawn) The method of claim 30, further comprising the steps of:

providing a fluid-holding volume for said fluid-holding apparatus of no less than approximately 25 cubic centimeters; and providing said fluid-holding volume of no greater than approximately 50 cubic centimeters.

45. (withdrawn) The method of claim 30, further comprising the step of:

providing a fluid-holding volume for said fluid-holding apparatus of approximately 37.5 cubic centimeters.

46. (withdrawn) The method of claim 30, further comprising the step of:

providing an inner side surface height for said inner side surface no greater than said inner mid section diameter.

47. (withdrawn) The method of claim 30, further comprising the steps of:

providing an inner side surface height for said inner side surface no greater than approximately 4 centimeters; providing said inner side surface height no less than approximately 2 centimeters;

providing said inner mid section diameter no greater than approximately 6 centimeters; and

providing said inner mid section diameter no less than approximately 3 centimeters.

48. (withdrawn) The method of claim 30, further comprising the

2 steps of:

3 providing an inner side surface height for said inner side  
4 surface of approximately 3 centimeters; and

5 providing said inner mid section diameter of approximately 4  
6 centimeters.

1 49. (withdrawn) The method of claim 30, said step of preventing  
2 said spilling further comprising the step of:

3 continuing said outer side surface outwardly from said outer  
4 mid section diameter to said outer lower section diameter using  
5 an outward angle comprising an approximately 90 degree angle  
6 tangential to at least one point from said outer mid section  
7 diameter to said outer lower section diameter.

1 50. (withdrawn) The method of claim 30, said step of preventing  
2 said spilling further comprising the step of:

3 continuing said outer side surface outwardly from said outer  
4 mid section diameter to said outer lower section diameter using  
5 an outward angle comprising an approximately 75 degree angle  
6 tangential to at least one point from said outer mid section  
7 diameter to said outer lower section diameter.

1 51. (withdrawn) The method of claim 30, said step of preventing  
2 said spilling further comprising the step of:

3 continuing said outer side surface outwardly from said outer  
4 mid section diameter to said outer lower section diameter using  
5 an outward angle comprising an approximately 60 degree angle  
6 tangential to at least one point from said outer mid section  
7 diameter to said outer lower section diameter.

1 52. (withdrawn) The method of claim 30, said step of preventing

2 said spilling further comprising the step of:

3 continuing said outer side surface outwardly from said outer  
4 mid section diameter to said outer lower section diameter using  
5 an outward angle comprising an approximately 45 degree angle  
6 tangential to at least one point from said outer mid section  
7 diameter to said outer lower section diameter.

1 53. (withdrawn) The method of claim 30, said step of preventing  
2 said spilling further comprising the step of:

3 continuing said outer side surface outwardly from said outer  
4 mid section diameter to said outer lower section diameter using  
5 an outward angle comprising an approximately 30 degree angle  
6 tangential to at least one point from said outer mid section  
7 diameter to said outer lower section diameter.

1 54. (withdrawn) The method of claim 30, said step of preventing  
2 said spilling further comprising the step of:

3 continuing said outer side surface outwardly from said outer  
4 mid section diameter to said outer lower section diameter using  
5 an outward angle comprising an approximately 15 degree angle  
6 tangential to at least one point from said outer mid section  
7 diameter to said outer lower section diameter.

1 55. (withdrawn) The method of claim 30, said step of preventing  
2 said spilling further comprising the steps of:

3 providing an outer section ratio of no less than 1 to 1.5  
4 between said outer mid section diameter and said outer lower  
5 section diameter; and

6 providing said outer section ratio of no more than 1 to 1.1  
7 between said outer mid section diameter and said outer lower

8 section diameter.

1 56. (withdrawn) The method of claim 30, said step of preventing  
2 said spilling further comprising the step of:

3 providing an outer section ratio of approximately 1 to 1.33  
4 between said outer mid section diameter and said outer lower  
5 section diameter.

1 57. (withdrawn) The method of claim 30, further comprising the  
2 step of:

3 sterilizing said fluid-holding apparatus to suitably for  
4 utilization in surgical procedures.

1 58. (withdrawn) The method of claim 30, further comprising the  
2 step of providing said fluid-holding apparatus in combination  
3 with a surgical kit comprising at least one item of surgical  
4 equipment other than said fluid holding apparatus.

1 59. (withdrawn) The method of claim 30, further comprising the  
2 steps of:

3 continuing said inner side surface inwardly from said inner  
4 mid section diameter to said inner upper section diameter using  
5 an inward angle comprising a no more than approximately 45 degree  
6 angle tangential to any point along said inner side surface from  
7 said inner mid section diameter to said inner upper section  
8 diameter;

9 fabricating said inner side surface, said outer side  
10 surface, said points along said inner side surface forming said  
11 inward angle, and said base comprising a single, unitary article;  
12 providing a fluid-holding volume for said fluid-holding  
13 apparatus of no less than approximately 25 cubic centimeters; and

14       providing said fluid-holding volume of no greater than  
15       approximately 50 cubic centimeters.  
1     60.   (withdrawn) The method of claim 59, further comprising the  
2     step of:  
3       sterilizing said fluid-holding apparatus suitably for  
4     utilization in surgical procedures.